



AROUND THE BLOCK

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION NEWSLETTER

Commissioner Carol Higgins O'Brien

Does your facility have any interesting historical artifacts?

The DOC is in the process of gathering items to display in exhibits at HQ on a rotating basis.

Any ideas?

E-Mail Chris Fallon your ideas today.

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MA CORRECTIONS

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Newsletter printed by
Massachusetts
Correctional Industries

Performance Measures – Turning Data into Information

The Performance Measures Division is a team of four led by Director Diane Silva. Diane oversees Gail Simms, Cara Savelli and Ana Rosas. The Performance Measures Team studies and analyzes critical prison incidents to improve performance and maximize the safety of staff and inmates. The Division collects data for standards relating to public safety, institutional safety, substance abuse, mental health services, justice, academic education, health care and fiscal. Performance Measures staff analyze information collected on nearly 200 key indicators that were nationally determined to be useful across correctional agencies to gain a clear sense on how we are meeting correctional responsibilities. Data collected is used to inform staff so that data driven decisions can be made about critical correctional operations.

While this team remains largely behind the scenes, assisting facilities and divisions with data gathering and process improvement plans, their work is seen in many places. For example, they recently released a report on assault data at Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (SBCC). This type of report allows DOC leadership to see if changes made had an impact. In this case, the analysis clearly shows that the operational changes made at SBCC significantly reduced instances of inmate on staff assaults.

Analysis of Facility Assault Trends

Souza Baranowski Correctional Center

Critical Incident:

In June 2012, an inmate brutally attacked Correction Officer Nathan Beauvais. Several inmates became involved and a total of eight Correction Officers were significantly injured and required treatment at an outside hospital. This incident prompted the staff at SBCC to take a critical look at operational practices and implement changes that would enhance staff safety. Some of the operational enhancements include:

- cell reassignments;
- limiting the number of inmates out for tier time;
- locking in inmates who choose to forgo yard and gym periods;
- separating yard and gym time periods amongst housing units;
- reducing the amount of times inmates have access to the stairwells; and
- reassigning “feed in” units and improved security threat group monitoring.

These changes and the efforts made by the staff at SBCC has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of inmate on staff assaults and improved safety for staff. Thanks to the staff at SBCC for making the facility safer.

Summary

The Performance Measures Division collects comprehensive data on critical prison incidents, such as inmate-on-staff assaults. Assault data is analyzed on an ongoing basis in order to identify any relevant or significant trends. Recently, a detailed analysis of this dataset was conducted examining data for the last four years. The results, which are highlighted in the table below, revealed that between 2011 and 2014 there has been a significant decrease in the number of inmate-on-staff assaults without serious injury at Souza Baranowski Correctional Center (SBCC). The internal changes made at SBCC beginning in 2012, resulted in an overall 65% decrease in inmate-on-staff assaults through 2014.

Number of Inmate-on-Staff Assaults without Serious Injury				
# of Assaults	# of Assaults	# of Assaults	# of Assaults	Overall %Change
2011	2012	2013	2014	
55	51	29	19	↓ -65%
-	▼ -7%	▼ -43%	▼ -34%	

Did You Know?

recidivism

noun | re-cid-i-vism | \ri-'si-də-,vi-zəm\

Definition of RECIDIVISM

: a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior; *especially* : relapse into criminal behavior

In the Massachusetts DOC, we define recidivism for tracking purposes the following way: A recidivist is any criminally sentenced inmate released to the street from a MA DOC facility, during a given year, who is reincarcerated for a new sentence or a violation of parole or probation in a Massachusetts state correctional facility, a Massachusetts County House of Correction, or to a federal facility within three years of their release to the street.

The three year recidivism rate has decreased from 42% (2006 release cohort) to 35% (2011 release cohort), which is significant with a 17% decrease in recidivism over the course of 5 years.

“True patriotism isn’t cheap. It’s about taking on a fair share of the burden of keeping America going.”

--- Robert Reich



SPC Alexandria Profetto, daughter of Lisa Nordstrom, Director of Security at MASAC, has certainly done her share of defending our country.

Alexandria was deployed to Kuwait in 2014 and served as an air traffic controller for the Army Air National Guard. Soon after her deployment, Alexandria requested a Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag thru Superintendent Allison Hallett of MASAC. Alexandria indicated to Allison that staff at the control center in Kuwait took turns flying their respective state flags to honor and remember those from their home states while serving the U.S. in Kuwait. Superintendent Hallett sent Alexandria a Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag and it flew in Kuwait at Patton Army Heliport, Camp Arifyan, Kuwait during operations Enduring Freedom and Inherent Resolve.

Alexandria returned from Kuwait in 2015 and paid a visit to MASAC to present Superintendent Hallett with the flag along with a personalized photo of the flag flying in Kuwait. Superintendent Allison Hallett, Deputy Superintendent Nelson Julius, Deputy Superintendent Brad Cowen, and a number of MASAC staff joined together to honor Alexandria for her service and to express gratitude to her for the flag and the sentiment behind the gesture.

Superintendent Hallett expressed her thanks on everyone’s behalf and presented to her The Military Peer Support Coin to her as a symbolic gesture of thanks for her service to out great country and for her patriotic spirit.

The flag and photo will be displayed at MASAC and we will be forever grateful to Alexandria.



Artist Brian Fox Visits MASAC

By Jeanie Lahousse

“Art is when you hear a knocking from your soul, and you answer.” -Terri Guillemets

Brian Fox, a nationally renowned artist, recently visited MASAC to share his story with members of the MASAC art program, along with other interested inmates from general population.

Brian shared his personal story and his artistic journey with regard to pursuing his dream. Brian spent time discussing his career path and gave a brief summary of his pursuit to his passion, art. He was able to effectively relate to the men and answered many questions from the men attending the program.

In addition, he was able to see the artwork done by the men at MASAC and provide constructive criticism as well. He offered guidance/recommendations on how to enhance artistic talent. Many of the attendees had submitted artwork for the 1st Annual Art Contest and Brian was able to discuss their drawings with them. Brian’s dream has paid off as he has formed relationships with many athletes and painted some of the biggest icons of our time. Some include: Jackie Robinson, Michael Phelps, Johnny Depp, Jim Craig, and Ray Charles. In addition, he has also been chosen to draw commemorative work for the NFL and MLB.

The feedback we received from the inmates was phenomenal. They reported they were inspired and for some, it was a testament that success can really happen if you pursue your dreams.

Brian talked about leaving a secure 9-5 job and taking a risk in pursuit of a dream in this case, that decision has paid off and demonstrates how he has flourished as an artist.

In closing, this was an event that had many benefits; everyone loved him! In addition, staff were able to see his work that he brought in and were able to share their thoughts/opinions on Brian’s work as well and just simply talking about his paintings. It was an event that was very positive, entertaining, educational, and inspirational.

The art contest winners are already applying some of Brian’s suggestions, which is rewarding for Brian to hear.

Brian answered that knock on the door and the world is a better place because of it; not just because he’s a great artist but also because he uses his talent at many charitable events throughout the year, which is humbling and so very kind.

The men at MASAC have stated that Brian’s visit won’t be forgotten. They have stated it has inspired them and they feel lucky to have met a man who took a risk, pursued his dream, and became successful, and along that road met many challenges that made him who he is today. The men at MASAC need to hear about challenges because their road will also present challenges, challenges that we hope will make them stronger and better equipped to endure what the future holds for them.



L to R: Brian Fox, Supt. Allison Hallett and Officer Fred Akerblom Jr.

Military Peer Support Program 5K

By Keith Germain

The Military Peer Support Program (MPSP) was started in November, 2010 to assist our Veterans while on deployment, support their families and to help them reintegrate back into the work place upon returning from war. The first annual 5K was held on Sunday June 3, 2012 and four years later the participation has been growing higher and higher. We just held our 4th annual 5K event and it was with great success. The money raised from this event goes to Veteran officers in need of assistance which varies from housing assistance, lawn care for deployed officers, Christmas presents, care packages, donations to local veterans programs and other requests to help out our brother and sister Veterans.

New to this event was the “Patriot Award.” This award was put in place to encourage team participation and the team with the largest number of participants would win the award. The Patriot Award displays an American bald eagle in flight over two American flags with its’ talons out stretched. This award was chosen because the Eagle with its talons outstretched is our national bird and represents the tenacity of the men and women of our Armed Forces, who sacrifice so much to protect the people of the United States and our way of life. Congratulations to Team Framingham led by CO Danielle Golden (Captain in the Massachusetts National Guard), who was presented the first Patriot award by Military Peer Support volunteer Lt. Mark O’Neill (Veteran USMC).

All who participated in the event enjoyed great food, face painting and tattoo art provided by Massachusetts Correction Officers Federated Union. Chris Fallon donated his time and services by providing outstanding music and his Groovy Booth Bus. Booths were set up by the Home Base Program, Save team (Dep. Of Veteran Affairs), On Guard Boston 2024, Healthy Wealthy Wise, Thanks to Yanks, and Pizzeria UNO. Donations were provided by local businesses and made for great raffles. The MPSP would like to thank all the volunteers and participants who came out to show support. For those who missed out this year, make time on your calendar for our 2016 event.



Team Framingham

Battle of the Institutions Basketball Tournament

By Chris Frazier

After a successful campaign last year, this year's tournament surpassed everyone's expectations. Held on June 20th, the M-plex facility in Mansfield played host to an extremely competitive but also fun experience for all. The facility had 5 courts available for all players and their families to use. In between games, kids were able to utilize the free courts and burn off some energy, which pleased a lot of parents participating in the tournament.



We had a strong turnout with teams represented from 13 of 18 institutions. The DOC also partnered with the Boston Celtics and was fortunate to have Celtics' Group Sales Account Executive Marc Rogers bring the 1984 NBA Championship trophy to the tournament for players, family and friends to take pictures. The M-plex facility was an ideal venue to accommodate the 160 players and roughly 150 friends and family in attendance.

The tournament was a double elimination tournament, which tipped off at 9AM and ended at 5PM. After hours of blood, sweat and... basketball, there was a rematch of the championship game from last year's tournament. For the second year in a row, MCI-Cedar Junction defeated MCI-Norfolk and took home the title to once again hang the championship plaque on the walls of the institution.

To strengthen our partnership with the Boston Celtics, TD Garden is hosting a "DOC night" during one of its regular season games. DOC staff will be able to purchase discounted tickets in a specialized section of the arena, and the first and second place teams from the DOC basketball tournament will have the opportunity to play on the court at prior to tip off. Updated information will be posted on the Intranet as we approach the date of the events.



On behalf of all participants, we would like to express special thanks to Nate Frazier and Paul Roach from the MCI-Norfolk Maintenance department for constructing this year's plaque. I would also like to thank each of the Superintendents who graciously paid for some, if not all, of the facility team costs; MCOFU for their donation; Marc Rogers for bringing the NBA championship trophy to the tournament: and, last but not least, MASSCOR for working with us and producing beautiful T-shirts for the players. We hope that this tournament continues to grow every year and the goal is to have all 18 institutions and even some divisions represented in the years to come.



Tournament Champions— Team Walpole

Yoga Program at Bridgewater State Hospital

By James Rioux

"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others"-Peace Pilgrim

On July 1st staff from various disciplines at Bridgewater State Hospital completed the first six week yoga course offered by Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. Yoga instructors Dave Dunbar and Dan Dietterich co-facilitated the first course which was designed to increase staff morale, reduce workplace stress, and teach staff practical skills that could benefit them in their personal lives. Chanda Shepardson, Development Strategy Analyst for the Kripalu Center, states that having staff participate is important in creating a successful yoga program at BSH. It is anticipated that staff will serve as the ambassadors to other staff, patients, and inmates interested in experiencing the benefits of yoga for themselves.

The Kripalu Center's mission is to empower people and communities to realize their full potential through the transformative wisdom and practice of yoga. Kripalu's program model is not religious based but focused on creating a learning environment which motivates and challenges its students mentally and physically. The yoga program at BSH is being funded through Kripalu's Teaching for Diversity (TFD) grant program, its donors, and foundations. TFD was established in 2001 to enable yoga teachers to deliver the benefits of the practice to underserved populations ranging from Title 1 school children, senior citizens, the hearing impaired, and minority populations. Prior to coming to BSH, both yoga instructors participated in a rigorous training program where they learned about the yoga philosophy, principles of anatomy and physiology, yoga breathing techniques, relaxation and meditation.

Kripalu
exploring the yoga of life.



Kripalu's six week curriculum at Bridgewater State Hospital is designed to increase strength, flexibility and circulation, improve sleeping patterns and eating habits, and improve overall health. In just six short weeks, participants will practice various poses which help to relax the body, unwind the mind, and promote positive thought patterns. For yoga novices it may be difficult to visualize some of the poses based on their names i.e. boat pose, snake pose, and downward facing dog, but all have a specific purpose in targeting parts of the body which typically experience stress and fatigue. For many employees who stand or sit at their respective work stations for most of the day, Kripalu yoga can be a great assistance to them. One correctional officer who participated in the first course stated that yoga has helped him significantly in reducing his chronic back pain. He is grateful to the program and looks forward to continuing the practice of yoga at home.

At the conclusion of every class instructors Dan and Dave extend a customary greeting, 'Namaste' to participants. This greeting which traditionally means, "I bow to you" helps to reinforce to one another that we are valued. As Dave fittingly translates it, "The awesomeness in me acknowledges the awesomeness in you". The BSH community looks forward to continuing this 'awesome' partnership with Kripalu to reduce stress and tension for staff now, and patients in the future; with an eye toward improved clinical outcomes for patients and improving overall climate for all at BSH.

Get Lost in some Massachusetts Corn Mazes

Davis Mega Maze - Sterling, MA

With 8 acres of corn and almost 3 miles of paths, the maze at Davis Farmland keeps things extra interesting with 7 Extreme Mazing Levels that let you choose your maze intensity.

145 Redstone Hill. 978-422-8888. davisfarmland.com

Marini Farm - Ipswich, MA

Ten miles of pathways weave among 8 acres of corn at Marini Farm
259 Linebrook Road. 978-238-9386. marinicornmaze.com

Mike's Maze - Sunderland, MA

Check out their website for clues about this year's maze.
23 South Main Street. 413-665-8331. mikesmaze.com

Sauchuk Farms - Plympton, MA

53 Palmer Road. 781-585-1522. sauchukfarm.net



Crisis Negotiation Team Conference

By Kathy O'Neill

The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) honored a request to present at the 15th Annual New England Crisis Negotiators Association (NECNA). All CNT members are affiliated with the New England Crisis Negotiators Association (NECNA) and through this membership directly participate in numerous multi-agency trainings, drills and conferences. Under the direction of Team Commander, Deputy Superintendent, Alvin Notice (NCCI) and Team Coordinator, Captain Sheila Smith (MTC) CNT team presenters Director of Behavioral Health Kathy O'Neill (HSD), Lieutenant Eugene Benevides (MTC) and Deputy Superintendent Denise McDonough (BSH) facilitated a comprehensive overview of our Department's CNT unit, discussed departmental training requirements for first responders and detailed summaries of crisis incidents that involved the use of the CNT as a primary intervention. The conference presentation was well received earning glowing feedback from attendees, NECNA board members, and FBI affiliates. At the time of press an invitation to present at future national negotiation conferences was discussed as well a request for future collaboration and cross training opportunities with Bristol HOC and Connecticut DOC Special Operations Division.



Attendance at the annual three day NECNA conference is a training requirement for all 18 CNT members that bring experience to the team from various institutions, ranks and disciplines. In light of the difficult fiscal times the state of Massachusetts as well as the Department of Correction has been faced with, all of the members of the team pay for all fees incurred for the conference out of their own pocket. This commitment speaks to the high level of dedication our team members possess. This year's conference was attended by approximately 200 law enforcement personnel throughout New England and included nationally renowned speakers such as Dr. Gary Noesner, retired Negotiation Commander for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with direct negotiation experience from incidents including those situations occurring at Ruby Ridge and Waco.

Members of our CNT team are traditionally selected from Tier 1 and Tier 2 certified first responders. Positions within the CNT are comprised of: the CNT Commander, Mental Health Consultant, CNT Team Leader, Primary Negotiator, Coach, Technician, Intelligence, Tactical Liaison, and Recorder (103 DOC 559, Special Operations Response Units, Attachment IV).

As a team, CNT members meet monthly to participate in experiential training by testing and operating specialized equipment, facilitating reality-based crisis/hostage type scenarios and reviewing the most current literature and research applicable to the field of negotiations Another key function of the CNT team is to provide training for institutional first responders. These trained staff members respond to crisis incidents within their facilities such as barricaded subjects, hostage situations, forced moves and other crisis situations. Utilizing the de-escalation techniques learned through training, have proven to be a useful tool in lowering the overall number of uses of force and aiding in the prevention of injury to staff and inmates.

Community Correspondents Network

- Daniel Alves
- Lisa Antunes
- Collette Blais
- Vanessa Burns
- Patricia Capozzoli
- Lori Costa
- John Cunningham
- Jason Dobson
- Ryan Donlon
- Darren Duarte
- Sherry Elliot
- Christopher Fallon
- Bet Gentz
- Jaileen Hopkins
- Kimberley Lincoln
- Marianne Lizotte
- Mary Lynch
- Anne Manning
- Brenda Melanson
- Gregory McCann
- James Morrone
- Debra Moschos
- John O'Malley
- Chris Pearson
- James Rioux
- Armando Santo
- Cara Savelli
- Christopher Shlimon
- Kate Sullivan
- Gary Temple
- Shawn Zoldak



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Commissioner Carol Higgins O'Brien

Facility Key

- BSCC- Bay State Correctional Center
- BPRC- Boston Pre-Release Center
- BSH- Bridgewater State Hospital
- LSH or LSHCU- Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Correctional Unit
- MASAC- MA Alcohol & Substance Abuse Center
- MTC- MA Treatment Center
- MCI-CJ- Cedar Junction
- MCI-C- Concord
- MCI-F- Framingham
- MCI-N- Norfolk
- MCI-P- Plymouth
- MCI-S- Shirley
- NCCI- North Central Correctional Institution
- NECC-Northeastern Correctional Center
- OCCC- Old Colony Correctional Center
- PCC- Pondville Correctional Center
- SMCC- South Middlesex Correctional Center

Promotions:

Michael G. Grant

Retirements:

- Joseph Agrella – July 1983
- Peter Allain – July 1995
- Wayne Allard – Nov 1991
- Wesley Alleyne – Jan 1983
- Gerald Andrews – May 1992
- Leo Avila Jr. – March 1982
- Francis Baker – Dec 1992
- Andrew Bakinowski – June 1999
- Thomas Banahan – Feb 1983
- John Barrett – July 2001
- Deborah Bencivenga – June 1998
- David Benoit – Jan 1984
- Robert Bent – Sep 1986
- Guy Bettencourt – Aug 1981
- James Bigwood – Sep 1982
- Steven Brady – Aug 1986
- Christine Brockelman – Nov 1985
- Thomas Byrne Jr. – March 2000
- Andre Carvalho – Oct 1982
- Philip Catmen – Dec 1996
- Michael Cohen – Sep 1987
- Anita Collins – Aug 1991
- Cathy Collins – Sep 1987
- Jason Crete – June 1983
- Michael Cronin – July 1983
- Paul Cruise – May 1979
- Paul Curran – June 1995
- Sandra Dempsey – Dec 1993
- Marianne Dent – Dec 2004
- Robert Dermody – Feb 1996
- Paul Dickhaut – May 1992

- Paul DiPaolo – Dec 1976
- Judith Doucette – July 1995
- Brian Duarte – March 1995
- John Economides – Apr 1992
- Alfonse Falzone – Dec 2007
- Sharon Ficco – Apr 1999
- Carol Fineman – April 1981
- Randy Fisher – Jan 1986
- Ellen Flaminio – Feb 1985
- Dorothy Foxx – Jun 1984
- Francis Garrity – May 1990
- Cheryl Gilmour – June 2003
- Denise Glidden – Sep 1998
- Carlos Granger – Feb 1997
- Mary Greene – Jan 1989
- Linda Griffin – Jan 1991
- Joanne Grossi – July 2001
- Nicholas Haley – March 1995
- Robert Hauswirth Jr. – Jan 1995
- Jewel Healy – Nov 1992
- Doreen Herr – Jan 2000
- Susan Herz – Jan 2006
- April Horton – Sep 1989
- Richard Houlihan – Jul 1983
- Anne Ingersoll – Oct 1995
- Alan Jansen – Jun 1990
- Adam Jenkins – Dec 2007
- Pearl Joy – May 2001
- Loretta Kazlauski – Oct 1982
- Stephen Lagace – Feb 1986
- Anthony Lagos – Mar 1984

- Ralph Langdon – Mar 2001
- Bernadette Langlois – Aug 1989
- Christopher Lanoue – Jul 1995
- Richard Leighton – Sep 1996
- Susan Lemay – Jan 1985
- Candida Leonard – Oct 1989
- David Lowe – Nov 1994
- Charles Lugo – Aug 1992
- David Malone – Sep 1987
- Diane Maloney – Jul 1988
- Michael Mathis – Sep 1991
- Gloria Mattila – May 1986
- Collette McKoy – Dec 1987
- Kenneth Mello – Aug 1988
- Kenneth Mendonca – Apr 1988
- Adelaide Mercier – Dec 1997
- Dawn Mikulski – Sep 1987
- William Milan – Jul 1991
- Desiree Monaco – Sep 1985
- Lisa Montague – Dec 1988
- Sally Morelle – Feb 1996
- Michelle Owen – Dec 1985
- Padma Pali – Jan 1999
- William Pappas – June 1984
- Joanne Paquin – Dec 1976
- Jeanne Petrillo – Jul 2004
- Mary Pimentel – Mar 2005
- John Plouffe – Dec 2007
- John Polychones – Jan 1987
- Corey Rapoza – Feb 1997
- James Raymond – May 1982

- Eric Reynolds – Aug 1991
- John Rezendes – Jul 1995
- Michele Richard – Jan 1983
- Gary Roberts – Mar 1981
- James Robinson – Oct 1981
- Barry Sandberg – November 2011
- Ana Santana – Aug 2001
- Alfred Scott – Dec 2003
- Stephen Silvar – Aug 1991
- Anton Smith – Jul 1988
- Eric Smith – Jun 1984
- Evelyn Smith – Jul 1986
- Courtney Span – Nov 1989
- Stacia Span – Sep 1987
- Shirley Staples – Mar 1997
- Walter Stowe – Dec 1983
- Michael Suffern – Jun 1999
- Chau Sullivan – Dec 2004
- Cynthia Sumner – May 1983
- Alfredo Tavares – Dec 1985
- James Tonry – Feb 1986
- Mary Valentine – Sep 1988
- Eulalia Vinueza – Sep 1986
- Mari Lou Whalen – Aug 1982
- Howard White – Nov 1987
- Margaret Wolf – Dec 1990
- James Zirulnik – Nov 1991